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Big Easy trip
Lakeshore band visits New Orleans Page 8

ll in the family Sliters enjoy time on the track Page 12

Tattoo thoughts Think before you ink, doctor says Page 10

Expanding skills Seniors helping youth at risk

YEWS INPORT

Page 21

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KORMOS MEMORIAI

'I will miss you, PK'

MARYANNE FIRTH InPort News Staff

THOROLD - Peter Kormos feared being forgotten. Well, fear not, Peter.

Judging by the showing at Saturday's memorial of family, friends and those whose lives were touched by the outspoken politician, it seems his name has been ingrained into

the minds of many. Possibly none more so than

Mark Kormos, who opened up to the crowd of more than 1,000 to share personal stories of his big brother, his inspiration. Peter Kormos, the former Welland MPP and Niagara regional councillor,

died March 30 at age 60. Because Peter was 14 years Mark's senior, the pair did not have a "typical sibling relationship."

see MEMORIAL | page 2



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Provincial NDP leader Andrea Howarth wipes away tears after looking at a photo of her former colleague Peter Kormos.

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upfront

■ MEMORIAL

Kormos had impact on younger brother

FROM PAGE 1

That, however, didn't prevent a bond from forming hetween them

Peter had already begun to "spread his wings" when Mark was finally old enough to realize the impact his older brother was going to have in the community

And that impact did not stop at the family's front door. Mark fondly recalled Peter sitting him down to play him the music that influenced his

life, his soul Bob Dylan, Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, American folk legends who interestingly enough created musical protest and always questioned political agendas.

Records filled with searing emotion weren't the only introduction Peter made to his younger sibling.

He was the one who took the training wheels off Mark's bike, teaching him to ride independently in the parking lot of Gordon Public School. He also taught him that

while money is useful, "the accumulation of money is not an end in itself," Mark said. It's what a person chooses to do with that wealth that determines their character.

"Having Peter as a brother was a wonderful thing," Mark said, one often filled with

30 month GIC

both awe and inspiration. At other times, it posed a bit of a challenge.

"How do you follow along with someone with that sort of stride?" he questioned. It became a matter of deciding whether to get out

of Peter's shadow, or remain in the shade He admitted he would often "tense up a bit" when asked if he was related to Peter, never knowing what

would follow. That tenseness came without precedence, he said, as the stories were never of Peter ruffling feathers, though there's no doubt that's something he enjoyed to do, but rather of him helping others and touching the lives of friends, family and strangers

"He wasn't guided to do things out of self-promotion, Mark said, as the stories rarely came from Peter's lips. His big brother's enormous presence could have taken him anywhere in life, but Peter chose to remain in his "beloved community" of Welland, Mark said.

"He dedicated his life to his community." Despite that dedication. Peter feared he would be

When he retired from his longstanding role as

standing-room capacity.

him better than most. She worked in his law to challenge tasks thought to he impossible She also learned not to bring a slice of pie for lunch unless she planned to bring one along for him, too.

As she grew up, Peter evolved, she said, inciting laughter from the crowd. The pair grew only closer. Peter became a travel companion for Wightman and husband Rob, and even her

occasional dance partner. Wightman thanked Peter for his unwavering friendship, trust, lovalty and kindness that he bestowed on her

"I'm going to miss you PK."

Peter's image in the community existed in three parts. There was the mythology, the legend, and the human being, said lifelong friend Mike Grimaldi, who also acted as Peter's campaign manager through his many

election runs. There were many tall tales told of Peter over the years, some of them wild, others laughable, and yet somehow they were all believed as they spread through the commu-

nity, he said. It was once said that Peter ran into a burning house to save his neighbours from cer-

after a memorial service for the Niagara Region councillor and tain death. While he did call 911 upon seeing the blaze, and even crawled under the home's porch to save the family's beloved pooch, that's where the heroic tale came to an end.

Grimaldi said with a laugh. "It was all a part of who Peter was," he said, adding his pal would just shrug off the sensationalized stories that often ran rampant.

Grimaldi felt it was Peter the man, in all his honesty, who few understood

local hospital.

He was the man who bought flowers at the market every Saturday, only to deliver them to seniors in the

He was the man who read through every newspaper imaginable to keep in tune with issues happening locally, nationally and around the

He was the man who sometimes refrained from cashing the cheques of his legal clients, depending on their circumstances, and who took troubled youths under

Kormos left Grimaldi with words he will never forget. "He said, 'People can come and take your money. People can come and take your house. People can come and take your car, but people can never take your integrity. That's something you need to give away and I will never give that away.

Well, I can tell you my friend, you never did." Peter's pride in his work was apparent in every speech, which always began the same, said Welland MP

Malcolm Allen. "Brothers and sisters, friends and neighbours. thanks for letting me be here with you today.

For Peter, it wasn't just a speech. It was truth, Allen

As he spoke with passion and vigour, Peter meant every carefully-selected word.

see BROTHER I page 8



Father Nicholas Deak leads Sheri Wightman out of Pleasantview Memorial Gardens and Visitation Centre Saturday afternoon as she carries the ashes of Peter Kormos

former longtime Welland NDP MPP. Welland's MPP, he was afraid no one would remember him, said Sherri Wightman his longtime friend and neighbour "It's apparent he had

nothing to worry about," she added, looking around the packed room - one of five on the property filled to Having met Peter about 30 years ago, Wightman knew

office, where she learned of his demand for proper spelling and his unrelenting need

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KORMOS MEMORIAL

The life of Peter

ALLAN BENNER InPort News Staff

THOROLD - Even when Peter Kormos was a child, those who knew him best had no doubt the bright young man would go far.

"He was always strongminded," said his uncle John Kormos "I have a little story about that." John added.

"Peter was only 14, and I had a business in Welland a motorcycle shop." John recalled having trouble getting motorcy-

cle parts from a supplier in Toronto "I couldn't satisfy my customers and that irritated me," he recalled.

He said Peter overheard him arguing with the parts supplier over the telephone and took it upon himself to write a

letter to that company. "I don't know what he wrote down, but he sent the letter off and within five days I got all the parts. I couldn't understand it." John said. "Peter was 14 years old when he wrote that letter and I've still to find out what was in it. He wouldn't tell me."

A few days later, John drove to Toronto to pick up more motorcycle parts from the supplier. "They wined and dined me, and took me out for dinner - all because

of that one letter Peter sent," he said. It's one of many stories shared by more than 1,000 people remembering Welland's longtime provincial government representative during memorial service

Saturday at Pleasantview Memorial Gardens and Visitation Centre. The stories could be overheard in murmured conversations punctu-

If you needed something, call on Peter and he'd help you out. He did everything for the public."

Karen Lundy

ated by the occasional chuckle as guests awaited the start of the service. But amidst the happy

memories there was a sense of profound sadness and loss - evident by the occasional sound of weeping and tissues wiping tears from red puffy eyes - still poignant more than a month after Peter's death March 30. He was 60 years old.

Claudette Richard recognized many of the more than 200 people who gathered in the main chapel of the funeral home, while hundreds more sat in other areas of the recently-built 1,700-square-metre facility.

"There's a real assortment of everybody here," said Richard, who grew up a few houses away from the Kormos family on

Riverside Dr. in Welland. There were people she knew who were struggling to make ends meet and others who had reached the upper echelons of their professions.

All of them - ranging from the downtrodden whom Peter belped, to Ontario Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne - had one thing in common. They all shared a friendship with the man whose ashes rested in a wooden urn at the front of the chapel beside a pair of



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Peter Kormos's mother. Simone Dettlaff, and his brother, Mark Kormos, leave the memorial service on Saturday at Pleasantview Memorial Gardens and Visitation Centre

and bouquets of spring John said bis nephew did

his best to help everyone he could, "from people collecting welfare, right up to the greatest minds in government." And like John, most of those people had stories to share about the man who wore those boots. "He was a character,"

Richard said, recalling some of her own happy well-worn cowboy boots memories of Peter.

Peter's cousin Karen Lundy was impressed by the number of people at the memorial service. but it was no less than she expected.

"This is big. I knew it was going to be. He was a very popular person with family, with friends, all around," she said following the service, while standing beside Peter's mother, Simone Dettlaff.

thing, call on Peter and he'd help you out. He did everything for the public," Lundy said. "He was amazing, and people don't forget. They really don't forget what it was

all about Welland MP Malcolm Allen urged to keep those memories of Peter alive.

"Memories are such wonderful things to keep close to your heart," he "If you needed someRelated information: More on Peter Kormos, Pages 16, 18

Mark Evans, a partner in Kormos' legal practice, called the memorial service "a true celebra-

tion of Peter's life. "It's always sad when someone close to you passes away," he said. He touched a lot of people, and you can see that by the turnout

INPORTANEWS

Published by InPort News Sun Media Corp. 228 East Main Street. Welland, Ontario, L3B 5P5 Tel: 905-732-2414 Fax: 905-732-3660 inport.news@sunmedia.ca John Tobon, publisher, print & digital Dave Johnson, Inport News senior reporter



Ourview

Full of gas

Premier Kathleen Wynne and past premier Dalton McGuinty were so full of it in their testimony about the Liberals' gas plant fiasco, that some final observations on their absurd arguments are

First was Wynne's statement the government needs to develop better ways of listening to communities when it comes to locating gas plants, and McGuinty's claim he cancelled the Oakville and Mississauga plants because he listened to local health and safety

In the real world, if McGuinty and Wynne gave a fig about community concerns, they wouldn't have rammed industrial wind turbines down the throats of rural Ontarians, while taking away the rights of local municipalities to have any say

McGuinty's hypocrisy is particularly astounding, given that he called anyone who objected to industrial wind turbines a "nimby," unless they were doing so for legitimate safety and environmental reasons, all of which his government rejected

In fact, people claiming adverse health symptoms caused by noise and low-level vibrations from wind turbines were told by the Liberal government they were the only ones complaining. when in actuality hundreds of complaints were nouring in from across the province.

As for McGuinty's claim he stopped the Oakville and Mississauga plants in part because he was concerned about

asthmatic children, this is more specious nonsense If McGuinty really cared about asthmatic children, he would have put scrubbers on Ontario's coal-fired electricity plants

during all the years he was breaking his 2003 election promise to close them by 2007, which the Liberals still haven't fully delivered. Coal plants are far worse than natural gas plants when it comes to emitting pollution.

Further, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health has said the gas plants wouldn't have had any negative health impacts on local

The truth is the Liberals cancelled the two gas plants - at a cost to the public of at least \$585 million, instead of the \$230 million they claimed - for one crass, political reason.

It was to save their political hides in the 2011 election, since they would otherwise have lost several Liberal seats due to local anger

over the Oakville and Mississauga plants Continuing to insist otherwise simply shows the Liberals' continuing contempt for the public.

COLUMN

International Women's 'Holy Crap! Week



was down in the States last week – feet up on a balcony of a lodge in New York State that looks out over the Pennsylvania countryside -

thumbingthrough a pile of U.S. newspapers. The hiking was great until I saw a Catch Of The Dayphoto in the French Creek General Store of a 580-lb, black bear shot and killed by an Amish hunter. Walking in the bush, I don't know which scared me more - hungry bears the size of Volkswagens or a guy with a gun whose religion forbids him to wear

prescription glasses??? Anyway, the human interest stories in

American newspapers never fail to provide full-value entertainment. A woman named Jenna Krehbid, attending the Isis Shrine Circus in Salina. Kansas left her seat in the hig ton during the clown's performance to use the facilities. Entering the women's washroom. she was immediately confronted by a fullgrown Bengal tiger. She screamed and the tiger flinched. Then she bolted and the tiger was subsequently captured by circus staff and returned to his cage. Not sure where Jenna did her business - on the spot or in another washroom, but Ang Lee has already purchased an option on the movie rights to her story. Working title: Life Of Pee.

At risk of raising a recurring theme ... eightyyear-old Miriam Tucker accidently swallowed a \$5000 diamond at a Tampa Women's Club charity event. Fake zirconium stones were placed in 399 glasses of champagne while the real diamond was placed in the 400th flute. the one from which Mirlam was drinking. While enjoying the champagne, she broke out laughing at something said at the table and that's when he swallowed the charity's big prize. Embarrassed, she watched as contest officials and jewellers searched franticly for the missing diamond. Finally she finally had to

However - and really, how lucky can one octogenarian get? - Miriam was already scheduled for a colonoscopy later that week so she left it to the doctor to recover the jewel. The paper at least spared me that headliner: "Doctor Discovers Diamond Where Sun Never Shines

Me, I would not have told the doctor. Imagine the look on his face when he spots a \$5000 pure-cut diamond instead of a bunch of grey polyps?

Under politics, I see where Jean Quan, Mayor of Oakland, California got herself into a real pickle last week. Amid a 40% spike in burglaries last year in Oakland, the



A woman named Jenna Krehbid, attending the Isis Shrine Circus in Salina, Kan., left her seat in the big top during the clown's performance to use the facilities. Entering the women's washroom she was immediately confronted by a full-grown tiger.

mayor heartily promoted a city-sponsored educational class on how to pick locks. The class was originally designed for people who needed to get into their vehicles after losing their keys but after the mayor's celebrity endorsement, people with aspirations to become car thieves signed up as well.

The mayor has apologized and promised to do a better job of reviewing class listings in

With the city averaging 33 burglaries a day, the mayor should also be very careful about presenting all those keys to the city. It'll be her office that gets burglarized next. The bottom line: nobody was jailed in this unfortunate incident because really, what good would it have done. They now know how to pick locks!!!

A small town in Ontario made the pages of American newspapers last week. You know how you're sitting around a table and there's just one stuffed mushroom left on the tray and everybody in the room is too polite to polish it off. Yeah, well apparently they don't have that problem in Lindsay. A 39-year-old woman became more

than a little angry that her 41-year-old live-in boyfriend just assumed that because he's a man, he should get the last beer in the fridge. When police arrived at the home, they found both combatants completely drenched in chips and dip. I can't tell you how proud that makes me feel, reading a U.S. newspaper with the headline: "Canadian Couple Charged In Chip Dip Assault Over Beer," If the conveditor had somehow managed to work the word 'hockey' into that headline, I think I would have teared up or had to pack up and come home. In America they're battling over gun

control: in Canada it's the last can of Labatt's

No details on who actually did get the last beer but from what I read, neither of them really needed the first fourteen. It had to be the woman who called police because the man would have already been on his cell, calling the Beer Store to see how late they

I can't wait for the trial. Plain or ruffles? Pre-packaged dip or the kind you make stirring French onion soun mix into a bowl of sour cream? Man, I love that stuff. Better they went at it with chips and dip rather than something served on skewers. Police are not releasing their names until next of kin have time to legue town

Finally, the cashier at Family Dollar in Lithonia, Georgia faced down an armed robber last week. Confronted by a marked man with a handgun who demanded the money in the till, the woman calmly explained that she could only open the cash register by ringing up a purchase. The man then bought a Reese's Pieces

bar and emptied the till before fleeing. The unnamed female cashier is now up for some sort of citation for bravery and "Sales Lady Of The Month!

I reminded myself that newspapers were supposed to be informative and thoughtprovoking and maybe even enlightening. But after reading those four papers, all I could think of was how furious Ricky was going to be when he got home from the club and found out what Lucy and Ethel had

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Y fundraiser



YMCA of Niagara's annual Strong Kids Campaign shifted into top gear Wednesday April 24 as members, volunteers and staff took part in a cycle-a-thon, spinning for 14 hours across the region in St. Catharines, Fort Erie, Welland, Grimsby, Niagara Falls and Port Colborne. The goal was to raise awareness and much needed funding to support kids in need. The 2013 YMCA Strong Kids Campaign is part of a national YMCA focus to raise charitable funds to financially assist children and youth to gain from YMCA experiences in Membership, Day Camp, Youth Outreach programs, Child Care and more.

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■ KORMOS MEMORIAL: Former page pays tribute

His cowboy boots live on



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo Darcy Feagan of Port Colborne, served as a page

InPort News Staff

Thorold - Kormos's boots were made for kickin' butt and inspiring young people like Darcy Feagan. The Grade 11 student at Centennial Secondary School in Welland wore a pair of black cowboy boots to honour her friend and mentor, the former Welland MP and Niagara regional councillor at his memorial service at Pleasantview Memorial Gardens and Visitation Centre in Thorold on Saturday. "It's really sad that he's gone

because I think he was a really good voice for social justice in the community," she said.

Kormos died at age 60 on March

Feagan met Kormos when she was in Grade 8 and entered the Page Program at Queen's Park. The program gives community minded students the opportunity to learn more about government and leadership.

"He really welcomed me when I went into the house," she said. "It's really sad that he's gone because I think he was a really good voice for social justice in the community."

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She said she admired Kormos because of his character and dedication to his community

"He really fought for what he believed in," she said.

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DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo Darcy Feagan, of Port Colborne, attended the Peter Kormos memorial at Pleasantview Memorial Gardens and Visitation Centre Saturday afternoon and wore cowboy boats in honour of the Niagara Region councillor and former longtime Welland NDP MPP. Feagan served as a page in the provincial legislature when Kormos was representing the riding.

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■ WALK AGAINST MALE VIOLENCE: Nearly 600 students participated in 23rd annual event



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Taking steps to end abuse

ALL AN RENNER InPort News Staff

WELLAND - Efforts to put an end to broken bones, bruised faces and

battered egos continue Among the ranks of people who won't tolerate the abuse of women are nearly 600 students from three local high schools who carried banners through the streets of Welland last week to raise awareness about

domestic violence. The students were participating in Notre Dame College School's 23rd annual Walk Against Male Violence. including about 500 students from Notre Dame, as well as about 60 more from Lakeshore Catholic High School in Port Colborne, and about 30 from Confederation secondary

school Teacher Paul Turner said the students held a moment of silence for victims of violence - "particularly women and children" - as well as for ailing provincial walk organizer

and founder Ken Hancock Hancock, Turner said, "has put mega hours into this for the past 23

vears. Carrying banners, urging people

to "Stop violence against women the students walked along Thorold

Rd., Prince Charles Dr. and Lincoln and King Sts. before arriving at the Merritt Park Amphitheatre.

"We talk about terrorism, and we have it happening in our own neighbourhoods and our own homes. Women and children, in particular, are held hostage themselves," Turner said, "We need to get the word out

Locally, the event raises funding for Women's Place of South Niagara. This year, the students collected donations of more than \$11,000 for the agency that assists women and children that have escaped domestic

Women's Place community engagement co-ordinator lennifer McQuestion said it's also extremely important to get young people involved

"It's raising awareness and having young people start to understand the importance of healthy relationships. and this sort of violence isn't going to be accepted." McQuestion said getting schools

involved is one of the most important things people can do "to try and stop the cycle of violence."

"This is an amazing initiative."

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Lakeshore takes on the Big Easy



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Lakeshore Catholic High School's jazz band performed at Grace King High School in New Orleans recently, Members of the band include, front row from left, Melissa Brown, Laura Ahumada and Ally McCartney and, back row from left, Chris Morcone, Henry Orford, Nick Masciovecchio and Stephen



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DAVE JOHNSON InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE - Students from a New Orleans high school and Lakeshore Catholic High School came together in an impromptu jam session after the Port Colborne students finished a performance in late April

"We had great interaction with the school after we played," said Lakeshore music director Loreen Michalak

"Their kids joined 46 of our students, talking and playing together. We were at the school for an hour past our time. It

was a positive experience.

Concert and jazz band students, with Lakeshore's vocal group, were in New Orleans April 23 to 27 for a performance based trip for which students fundraised

and planned all year long Michalak said Grace King High School, where Lakeshore performed, used to have a drum line, marching band and orchestra, but those programs disappeared when hurricane Katrina hit and

demolished the school After being closed for several years, the school re-opened two years ago. "When we played, the students were

so appreciative. It gave them ideas of where they could go with their music program," Michalak said. The trip to New Orleans wasn't all about performing for a high school, it

was to learn about music history, especially jazz history. Jazz band trumpet player Meagan Brown said being with school friends in New Orleans was a really excellent

experience "We tried new food, and listened to live jazz on the streets," said Brown, adding it was also great to experience

the culture of the city Culture and music was the theme for

the students who went on the trip. "New Orleans is an amazing place, so full of life and culture. There were so many different thing to try down there ...

we didn't get through a quarter of what there is to experience there," said Laura Ahumada, who also plays trumpet in the ■ BROTHER

Ahumada said everyone should visit the city if they get the chance.

Piano player Ally McCartney said it was an amazing experience that she was glad to share with her high school

"The culture is unique there, it was really cool. We got to visit Preservation

Hall, I really enjoyed that," she said. Preservation Hall was established in 1961 to preserve, perpetuate and pro-

tect jazz and showcases a musical legacy dating back to the origins of the genre. Michalak said students study music history throughout the year and the visit

to Preservation Hall was a "pretty intense experience." Stephen Malcolm said it was an amaz

ing trip and a lot of fun. Preservation Hall was amazing it was great experience to go," said Malcolm

Dan Stambula, an alto sax player, said New Orleans is "the greatest city in America by far."

"It's so different from everything else I've never been anywhere so steeped in history

Stambula said one of the best experiences was heading to Congo Square and listening to jazz being played.

Congo Square is where African American slaves were allowed to gather on Sundays and where jazz got its start. Chris Morcone, who sings in addition

to playing baritone and alto sax, enjoyed the trip and performing in front of the high school audience.

"They had a passion for music ... it's always fun playing in front of a different audience.

Nick Masciovecchio said living in a small town in southern Ontario "you don't get to experience the culture of iazz." As someone who listens to jazz, the

New Orleans trips was special to him, especially listening to all of the street performers. "It was surreal."

Runciman.

dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca

Many speakers felt like family

He was thankful to be there. Allen said, and those who he spoke with were in some way his brothers, his sisters, his

friends and neighbours Allen will forever whisper those words

under his breath before each speaking engagement, thinking of his longtime friend and the service he gave to the community. He expressed gratitude for having been given the opportunity to

develop such a strong bond with Peter over the years. "He worked harder in life than most

people do in 10. Rest well, my friend. Rest well."

The list of speakers at the memorial also included Peter's cousin Teanna Brown, Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath, Welland MPP Cindy Forster and St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley, as well as a video tribute by senator Bob Ontario Museum illustrates

how Iroquois beadworkers

play a vital role in preserv-

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sures have been discovered

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MAY 16 PORT COLBORNE ART CLUB

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PELHAM HORTICULTURAL Society annual plant, lawn and bake sale at the Fonthill branch of Royal Canadian Legion, Regional Rd. 20. Rain or shine, 9 a.m. to 11:30

PELHAM HORTICULTURAL Society meeting 7:30 p.m. at Fonthill library. Looking for ideas for your garden? Come and hear Jeff Bokma. of Vermeer's Garden Centre. and find out all about hydrangeas. New members and guests welcome.

NUNE 3

zens and recreational centres throughout Niagara. A \$10 membership and regis-NIAGARA BEEKEEPERS tration fee allows partici-Association meets at the pants to play in local tour-Niagara Regional Police Sernaments, and winners can vice community room, 5 Linqualify for regional tournacoln St., Welland, at 7 p.m. ments in Milton, Aug. 7, if

MONDAY JULY 8

NIAGARA BEEKEEPERS Association meets at the Niagara Regional Police Ser vice community room, 5 Lincoln St., Welland, at 7 p.m.

ONGOING LIST-

PROGRESSIVE EUCHRE every Tuesday 7:30 p.m. at the REX hotel, King St., Welland, \$5 a person, Everyone welcome.

PORT COLBORNE HISTORIduplicate bridge, cribbage, bid and progressive euchre. and Marine Museum, 280 lawn bowling, golf, pickle-King St., is now open daily ball, prediction walking and from noon to 5 p.m. with badminton, Interested perfree admission. Explore our sons should contact their newest exhibits from May to local community centres, or September: 0'y ya'h ohdi-Ron Lemon at ronlemon21@ wena - Through the Voices hotmail.com, Josephine at of Beads: See Iroquois bead-905-357-3577 or Andy at 905-945-4892, Please work, both historical and contemporary, and learn check the OSGA 55+ webhow this art still flourishes. site at www.ontariosenior-This exhibit from Royal games.ca for more informa-

> BELLEROPHON DRUM and Bugle Band practises Monday nights 7 to 8 at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 4, Morningstar Ave.. All welcome.

BOWEN ROAD WOMEN'S Institute meets third Thursday of the month at People's Memorial Church, Ridgeway, at 7 p.m.

VENDORS WANTED The Guild Hall Makers' Market, 72 Charlotte St., Port Colborne, is held every Friday 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To inquire, call Mary at 905-835-0394 or the church

office at 905-834-3184 ST. ANTHONY'S Croatian Church is selling frozen apple and cheese strudels. Please call 905-

735-6159. CHESS CLUB

meets Thursdays at Welland Tennis Club, 45 Hooker St., 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Everyone welcome, Call 905-734-

CALLING ALL FINE ARTISTS

Second annual Art in the Park, juried fine art show. Pelham Peace Park, Fonthill, July 18 to 21. Application forms at www.patriciahaftar.com and at www.pelhamsummerfest.com.

WELLAND FRIENDLY CLUB seniors bingo, every Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Wesley United Church, 244 First Ave. N. Everyone wel-

WELLAND RIVER KEEPERS meets the third Tuesday of every month at Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority office, 250 Thorold Rd. W., Welland, third floor, 7 p.m. More info. 905-735-9861

PROGRESSIVE EUCHRE Tuesdays at Royal Canadian Legion, Morningstar Ave.. Welland, 7:30 p.m. sharp. Admission is \$5, all welcome.

RINGO Every Tuesday hosted by UE Retirees Association, 1 p.m., at CAW Hall, 16 Steel St.

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Every second Wednesday at Pelham library, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Come alone or with a friend Refreshments Call ahead for the schedule at 905-892-6443.

FIBROMYALGIA MEETING Every second Tuesday through June at Rapelje Lodge, Plymouth Rd., Welland. More info, Vicki 905-384-2294, Support, understanding and open

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FREE ART WORKSHOPS Held by In the Orchard Programming for the Arts. Free Art2 Workshops every

Thursday ages 13+ (sponsored by the Ministry of

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COMPUTER WORKSHOPS and one-on-one training are available at Wainfleet Township Public Library Monday. Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Please call the library at 905-899-1277 for more details and to book an appointment.

A CAPPELLA NIAGARA Men's Chorus Invites singers for fun, fellowship, and fabulous four-part harmony every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at St.John Ambulance, 5734 Glenholme Ave. at High St., Niagara Falls, For information call Kerry, 289-820-6584

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ers, e-books and audiobooks from your library: Facebook. Twitter and other social media; YouTube; managing, editing and sharing your digital photos online; and more. Includes use of laptop or bring your own gadget. Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.. \$5 per half-hour, Register ahead in person.

APPLE DUMPLINGS CAFE Satrdays 8 a.m. to noon. Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Welland, market square entrance. Hot apple dumplings, plain or raisin scones, tea or coffee. Eat in or take out. Frozen apple pies, large or small. Meet your friends at the market and take a break, All proceeds going to the church. BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

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MIKE DIBATTISTA OMI Agency Niagara Dr. Craig Kuhn, an addiction physician with the Niagara Addiction Services. visited Riverview School in Chippawa on Friday with an educational program called Think

Think before you ink

TONY RICCIUTO QMI Agency Niagara

NIAGARA FALLS - Don't be in such

Getting a tattoo is not something that should be done without giving it some serious consideration.

"Studies show that if we can just slow the impulsivity down so that they can think about it, rather than going into a tattoo studio and deciding something in a few minutes," said Dr. Craig Kuhn,

Addiction Services. Kuhn visited Riverview School in Chippawa Friday where he delivered an educational program to Grade 7 and 8 students called Think Before You Ink. It's estimated that up to 30% of 18 to 29

year olds get "inked." Many students gets tattoos and piercings before they're 15.

"A tattoo is something that might affect them for the rest of their lives," said Kuhn, who incorporates live music and a power-point presentation to explain the historical and cultural origins of tattoos, the anatomy of skin relevant to the application of tattoos and the various inks, public health risks and medical implications.

"Sometimes people don't necessarily regret getting the tattoo generally, but they might regret the type or circumstances such as getting it in jail and getting hepatitis C and now having to be treated," he said, "There are a lot of spinoffs to not allowing, some standards of tattooing."

Kuhn has presented the program to 58 schools and has reached thousands of students. His biggest audience was 900 students at a presentation in Prince Edward Island.

Kuhn talked about the health risks of getting a tattoo from an amateur in their home or even in a prison where needles are used more than once.

Lots of home-made materials are unsafe," he said, noting prisoners have been known to use the Bible to get ink from the red letters, or the staple that holds the pages together is used as a

Niagara Falls MPP Kim Craitor, who soon plans to introduce legislation relating to tattoos, attended the presentation.

tony.ricciuto@sunmedia.ca

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Sliters keep racing all in the family

Special to QMI Agency Niagara

THOROLD - Dillan Sliter may only be 16 years old, but he is already a seasoned veteran when it comes to racing at Merrittville Speedway

There aren't too many drivers at the track that are my age, but I don't find it hard to compete against older drivers." Dillan Sliter

Since the age of seven, the Port Colborne resident has been competing every Tuesday night in the Lucas Oil Kart Racing Series. Now, the Grade 11 student at Lakeshore Catholic Secondary School has moved up to the big leagues and races in the Lucas Oil Weekly Racing Series every Saturday night in front of thousands of fans "There aren't too many

drivers at the track that are my age, but I don't find it hard to compete against older drivers because this is a fair playing field," Sliter said

see AUTO RACING I page 14



JOE CASSIDY Special to OMI Agency Niagara

The Sliter family knows how to put the pedal to the metal at Merrittville Speedway, From the left: Shawn, Ryleigh, Dillan and Lenie Sliter,

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AUTO RACING

Staying calm leads to front row

FROM PAGE 12

"Merrittville (staff) is really good with their technical review and that keeps everyone in line," he added while preparing his No. 117 Volkswagen for Saturday's mini stock qualifying... When Sliter isn't racing. he puts his six-foot, 220pound frame to good use playing field lacrosse for the Gators high school team. Whether on the field or at the track, he has learned a couple things that are key to winning.

"My crew chief (Rob "I learned how to be smooth and stay out of other people's way," he

at all times.

have to keep your head in your helmet and stay calm Goulding) told me if I used my head, I would be at the

challenge, but also you

"It is very easy to get riled up in the car. If anybody gets into me, my head goes through the roof. People think they can get into my head, but it is not

going to happen." Sliter also counts on his uncle. Ray, or cousin, Josh, for advice because both race at Merrittville. If they can't help him, his dad,

Shawn, will give him some

amassed from competing in the sportsman division.

"My dad and I talk a lot about racing," Dillan said. "I help him out in the garage all the time. I have learned so much since I was little just by working in the garage with my father.

"He is my idol and I look up to him so much."

You have to keep your head in your helmet and stay calm at all times. My crew chief (Rob Goulding) told me if I used my head. I would be

at the front" Dillan Sliter

In the Sliter household. racing is also a female interest - Dillan's mom, Lenie, and his sister. Ryleigh, have racing experience.

I race mostly against boys and it is fun to beat them," said 11-year-old Ryleigh, who has 11 feature wins in go kart competition. "My biggest challenge is trying to get around them because they all run the bottom of the track.

"One day, I want to end up driving a sprint car." Lenie Sliter won a 2007 track championship in the pure stock division at Humberstone Speedway, but is now her family's biggest fan and supporter.

"It was nerve wracking last year watching Dillan race with my nephew (Josh) and husband (Shawn) and brother-inlaw (Ray) in the modified lites because the cars are a lot faster and smaller." Lenie said. "I know they are safe, but it is always in the back of your head about what could happen.

"I really don't worry about my daughter because she is really smooth. Everything on the go kart is hers and she bought it."

So far this season, Dillan has a sixth- and 10th-place finish in two features. He also has a message for three-time defending mini stock track champion Rocco Conte. "Rocco really has the

smoothness down and I hate to say it, but my challenge is to break that streak. You always have to hold a challenge above vourself to succeed in life."



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WIND ENERGY

Pelham may back turbine opposition

SARAH FERGUSON InPort News Staff

PELHAM - John Durley wants the provincial government to know that Pelham supports its neighbour in its unwillingness to host wind turbines

The Ward 3 councillor said recently that he wanted to make a motion to support Wainfleet in its efforts. Council directed town staff to report back with more information and recommendations

The Township of Wainfleet recently passed a resolution that states the municipality doesn't



want wind turbine projects in its community and sent a letter stating its stance on wind turbine development to Premier Kathleen Wynne, the Ministry of the Environment and the province of

The resolution came about after Wynne conveyed the government's desire to limit industrial wind turbine projects to communities that are willing hosts.

Wainfleet's motion was received by Pelham council and the issue was up for discussion at Monday night's

"The controversial issue of wind turhines has been a hot button issue in Wainfleet, I think it's important to look at the fact that more municipalities are becoming unwilling hosts," Duley said. adding the issue should be "kept on the

Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs said she was pleased to hear the news that Pelham is considering supporting Wainfleet.

"It holds so much more weight when it's our neighbouring municipalities supporting us. I think it shows a lot and sends a message," Jeffs said later

"If we're not willing hosts, then the province should respect it." The mayor said she realizes wind

turbines could benefit some areas, like Welland where 200 jobs will be created to manufacture wind turbine blades, but energy projects to dot landscapes don't fit in Wainfleet.

"Jobs are great but I really believe

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PETER KORMOS REMEMBERED



Thorold Protection Hose Company members formed an honour guard for Peter Kormos, who was an honorary member, at the memorial service on Saturday.



16

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo Past-president of Welland and District Labour Council Bob McCallion.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo Minister of Environment Jim Bradley.



Krysta Putman talks about Peter Kormos.



Welland MPP Cindy Forster attends the Peter Kormos memorial at Pleasantview Memorial Gardens and Visitation Centre Saturday afternoon in honour of the Niagara Region councillor and former longtime Welland NDP MPP.

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III KORMOS MEMORIAI

'Sadness transcended party lines,' Kathleen Wynne says

"Peter knew so much about legislative procedure - and he used that vast knowledge to represent the interests of this province well. But he also knew how to treat people - with kindness, with

respect, with good humour and compassion. When he died, the shock and sadness transcended party lines because of the positive force of his personality. He is missed by so many people - he

had an impact on so many lives and that is a tribute to the kind of man he was."

Ontario Premier Kathleen





Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne arrives at the Peter Kormos memorial at Pleasantview Memorial Gardens and Visitation Centre Saturday afternoon in honour of the Niagara Region councillor and former longtime Welland NDP MPP.



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Death 'to save lives'

MARYANNE FIRTH InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE - It's been nearly five years since Josh Mack's car plunged into the Welland Canal. killing the 24-year-old Ridgeway

It's also been nearly five years since his family began the fight to see modifications made to the bridgewherehe died.

On May 1, their efforts came to a head as work got underway to install an additional barrier at the Mellanby Ave, jackknife bridge near in Port Colborne.

"It's probably one of the most bittersweet moments of my life," said Corey Simon, Mack's hest friend who has worked alongside the family to see the changes implemented. "Forthern to finally do this is phe-

nomenal, but by the same token it's because of the death of my best Mack's family worked pains-

takingly hard to ensure a similar tragedy would not happen again, Simon said.

The barrier will sunnlemen existing gates at the bridge, said St. Lawrence Seaway Management

Corp. spokesperson Andrew It includes an arm with a strong cable inside that will stretch across the madway in front of the bridge

when it is raised. "If a car failed to stop, it would then be caught by the cable and restrained," Bogora said, adding it will work similar to a ship arrester

found within the canal's locks. The seaway comoration is work ing closely with Niagara Region and the City of Port Colborne on the project, which is expected to be completed by May 14

There are no immediate plans to put similar barriers in place at any other Niazara bridges, A consultant was brought in by the seaway corporation to evaluate the bridges, their unique characteristics and whether further precautionary measures were needed, he said, though none ware identified

Simon believes the modifications are going to make the bridge safer for residents, visitors and the region asawhole.

MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Best friend Corey Simon and the family of Josh Mack, a young man who died in 2008 after his car plunged into the Welland Canal in Port Colborne, have long been fighting for cautionary measures to be put in place at the jackknife bridge. Work finally got underway this month.

thing to be done, we were asking for something like this," he said, while standing by the construction site.

While pleased the work is press-

"We wouldn't settle for anything ing forward, Simon is disheartened that it took "a ridiculously tragic event" to incite change and act as the "catalyst to save lives" "It cost a life to save lives. That's

the only consolation I can find in this, knowing another family is not going to have to feel that pain As hard as it's been for Simon, he

can only imagine the pain Mack's family has endured since Josh died in the early morning hours of Aug.

There "aren't words" to describe theirioumev.he added. Mack's memory still lives on in the community.

A memorial remains on the chain link fence beside the bridge, untouched despite the construction, and Mack's family is looking into creating a permanent memo-

rial for the site His family is also hosting a memorial golf tournament on Saturday, July 13, at Fort Erie Golf

Proceeds from the event support a scholarship in Mack's name given out annually to a graduating bockey player at Lakeshore Catholic High School

For more information or to regis ter, visit www.joshmackgolf.com.

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News from **Port High**

CHESS CLUB

III HIGH SCHOOL

For InPort News

PORT COLBORNE - Practice paid off for memhers of Port Colborne High School's Chess Club during a DSBN high schools chess tournament.

"The tournament was a good

The tournament was held at F I. Crossley and four Port High students participated.

experience" says Riley O'Hara who place 8 of 14 in the Grade 12 division. The other competitors felt the same way, two other students placed in the Grade 12 division. Shelbey Burse 11 of 14 and Zack Furry 9 of 14. In the Grade 9 division Ionathan

Gamble placed 17 of 21. "I plan on heing apart of the team next year, and doing even better, said Gamble.

Port High will have to wait till next year to improve their scores as this tournament was the last that Port High will be participating in this season. The team will once again be reunited in the month of march.

This is not the first chess competition that the Blue Bears have competed. In February the team went to DSBN Team Tournament at Eastdale Secondary. Port High sent two teams, team No Pawn Intended and Team Extreme

PORT COLBORNE HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

MIRANDA RICHARDSON For InPort News PORT COLBORNE - Port

Colhorne High School's soccer season started out a strong one. The girls and hove team both played their first game against Confederation High School on April 23. Both teams played a tough game against the school.

The girls finished strong with a tie of 0-0. The boys also had a very intriguing game, and finished with a 2-2

tie. Matt Roy, number two on the team, scored both goals. The girls team dropped a 6-1 decision to RCBHS in Ridgeway.

The girls started strong but struggled to keep up with a more experienced Ridgeway team. The boys also dropped their game with the Blue Devils by a 5-0 score.

In their most recent game, the Bears Senior Boys team defeated Fort Erie 5-2 on their home field. Leading the way was Matt Roy with 3 goals, Hunter Beck with 1 and John Morrison scoring his first ever

VISITING THE SHAW

SARAH POTTS For InPort News

PORT COLBORNE - In high school, you have no choice but to be flexible. The same goes with theatre. This was revealed when the Port Colhorne High School Arts students attended workshops and a showing of the musical Guys and Dolls.

Students were invited by cast memhers to experience a day in the life of an actor at the Shaw Festival Theatre. Students were given a choice of workshops with ontions including singing and improvisation.

"Every time we go to the Shaw Festival they always make sure that our students have an amazing time. The performances are always stellar," said Amy Converset who is the school's drama teacher. She also coordinated the trip. She added that this experience allows the schools Specialist High Skills Major student to ask questions that they want to ask ahout life as an actor After the show, students were

welcomed to have a question and answer session with two actors from the show, which does not always happen at other places. It was fun and an enjoyable

experience. I really had a good time." Carly Johnson, a student and a memher of the Specialist High Skills Major program explained.

The arts department at Port Colborne High School has always had success when attending the Shaw Festival and typically goes there once a year in the spring.

Helping youth at risk

SARAH FERGUSON InPort News Staff

WELLAND - Together. youth and seniors have diverted about 100 tonnes of electronic waste from Niagara landfills while teaching each other a few things about life. "Kids have a lot to offer

and so do seniors." Youth Resources Niagara manager Ron Dubciak said. By working side by side, both age groups

learn about each other, he Resources Niagara and Through the intergenera-

tional Project Phoenix, teens develop basic life and workplace skills by refurbishing old computers with the help of older adults. The goal of the program is to provide mentoring to at-risk youth at Niagara Region Children's Safety Village.

Project Phoenix is a two-year pilot project program sponsored by Youth

Seniors for Youth Niagara, and is funded by the Trillium Foundation.

The computers are then donated to families who have young children and who are experiencing financial hardships.

"Seniors are an untapped resource that have a lot of experience and can be role models for youth, Dubciak

"It (the program) is not

about computers. The computers are the tools to engage seniors and youth.

Those benefits include improving self confidence and self esteem in at-risk youth, Dubciak.

Although the focus of Project Phoenix isn't just about refurbishing computers, last Saturday the program created a positive impact on the community.

About 64 families received refurbished computers last Saturday in celebration of Earth Week. Those restored computers will help young children to succeed in school. Dubciak said.

Project Phoenix is in need of more seniors to volunteer for the program as there are only eight volunteers. Whether or not, individuals have knowledge of computers, doesn't matter as training is available.

The hope, said Dubciak, is that the program will be able

to expand to other skills such as horticulture, automotive and carpentry. Eventually, Dubciak said he would like to see Project Phoenix become available for youth across the Niagara region and not just in

Seniors interested in volunteering can call 905-685-2105 or e-mail info.sfvn@ amail com

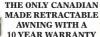
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Ron Laurie, right, and Fred Rehan refurbish computers with the help of at-risk youth. The refurbished technology is donated to families with children in need.







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Poverty affects everybody, not just the individuals involved

DAVE JOHNSON InPort News Staff WELLAND - Poverty impacts more than just those

community as a whole. "There's a financial impact in the community ... conservative estimates show it costs the (Niagara) region \$1.3B in lost productivity," said Elisabeth living it in, it impacts the

Zimmermann, chair of Niseara Poverty Reduction Network and YWCA Niagara Region's executive director

Niagara Poverty Reduction Network includes school boards, Niagara College, Brock University, health and social services, faith leaders, individuals, and levels of government, all coming together to bring more awareness to poverty issues.

In addition to raising awareness, Zimmermann said another goal of the network is to work to reduce poverty in the region. On Wednesday, May 22, the network will launch Wine Out Poverty in Niagara at Welland Community Wellness Complex, 145 Lincoln St., Welland, from 8:30 a,m to 10



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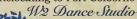
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